Maoist Attack on An Indian Hotel

121. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maoist rebels bombed a luxury hotel in Nepal in August, 2004 raising fears about the business climate there;

(b) whether after this attack, a number of top Indian firms have shut down their operations in Nepal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures Government of India have taken to see that the business climate in Nepal is improved for Indian companies to operate there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The Maoists set off bomb explosions at Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza in Kathmandu on August 16, 2004.

Following the attack, about 47 named and targeted business units in Nepal temporarily shut down their operations in two stages—12 units on August 16, 2004 and 35 units on September 10, 2004—in response to a threat issued by the Maoist—affiliated All Nepal Federation of Trade Unions (ANFTU). The targeted units included six units with varying levels of equity investment from India.

The Maoist organization lifted the threat on September 15, 2004, following which all these units resumed operations.

Government of India has kept a close watch on the situation and maintained close contact with His Majesty's Government of Nepal. Necessary measures have been put in place by HMGN to provide security for Indian enterprises. Our Embassy in Kathmandu is in regular touch with Indian business enterprises in Nepal. In addition, the Embassy works with chambers of commerce in Nepal to create an effective response of the business community to the security challenges to business operations in Nepal. Further, through our Embassy in Kathmandu, we coordinate with Embassies of other countries in Nepal to urge all concerned parties in Nepal to create an atmosphere conducive

for business in Nepal. The Government of India also believes that the resolution of the political and security problems in Nepal created by the Maoist insurgency will contribute to improving the business climate in Nepal.

Inclination of US Intelligence Agencies toward Pakistan's ISI

122. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that US intelligence agencies are leaning on Pakistan's ISI to carry out anti-India activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of militant groups are operating in Bangladesh and Pakistan to carry out terrorist activities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) US Government has conveyed that they are against cross border terrorism and that they will continue to press Pakistan in this regard. This has been reiterated at high levels in the US Government.

(c) As per available information, many terrorist organizations and infrastructure of support to terrorism, including training camps, launching pads, communication centres, etc continue to exist in Pakistan and the territory under its control.

Frequent reports are received by our agencies that Indian insurgent groups have been using Bangladesh territory for sanctuary, training camps, transportation of arms, transit, etc.

India's Dismay on Anti-India Militant Groups in Nepal

123.SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal has visited India, recently;

(b) whether India had conveyed its dismay on anti-India militant groups operating in Nepal;